

## All Ireland Review

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Our Industries. Sewing Cotton

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## AN ANCIENT CONVERSATION.

From Lady Gregory's forthcoming book.

*(Continued).*

"Fair is the plain, the plain of the noble yoke," said Cuchulain. "No one comes to this plain," said she, "who does not go out in safety from Samuin to Oimel, and from Oimel to Beltaine, and again from Beltaine to Bron Trogain."

"Everything you have commanded, so it will be done by me," said Cuchulain.

"And the offer you have made me, it is accepted, it is taken, it is granted," said Emer.

With that Cuchulain left the place, and they talked no more with one another on that day.

When he was driving across the plain of Bregia, Laeg, his chariot-driver, asked him, "What, now, was the meaning of the words you and the maiden Emer were speaking together?" "Do you not know," said Cuchulain, "that I came to court Emer? And it is for this reason we put a cloak on our words, that the young girls with her might not understand what I had come for. For if Forgall knew it, he would not consent to it, but to you, Laeg," he said, "I will tell the meaning of our talk."

"Where did you come from," said she. "From Intide Emna," said I, and I meant by that, from Emain Macha. For it took its name from Macha, daughter of Aed the Red, one of the three kings of Ireland. When he died, Macha asked for the kingship, but the sons of Dithorba said they would not give kingship to a woman. So she fought against them and routed them, and they went as exiles to the wild places of Connaught. And after a while she went in search of them, and she took them by treachery, and brought them all in one chain to Ulster. The men of Ulster wanted to kill them, but she said, 'No, for that would be a disgrace on my good government. But let them be my servants,' she said, 'and let them dig a rath for me, that shall be the chief seat of Ulster for ever.' Then she marked out the rath for them with the gold pin on her neck, and its name came from that; a brooch in the neck of Macha.

"The man, in whose house we slept, is Roncu, the fisherman of Conchubar. 'A man that tends cattle,' I said. For he catches fish on his line under the sea, and the fish are the cattle of the sea, and the sea is the plain of Tethra, a king of the kings of Fomor."

"Our food was the ruin of a chariot," I said. For a foal was cooked for us on the hearth, and it is the horse that holds up the chariot.

"Between the two mountains of the wood," I said. These are the two mountains between which we came, Slieve Fuad to the west, and Slieve Cuilinn to the east of us, and we were in Oircil between them, the wood that is between the two.

"The road," I said, 'from the Cover of the Sea.' That is from the Plain of Muirthemne. And it is from this it got its name; there was at one time a magic sea on it, with a sea-turtle in it which had a sucking nature so that it could suck a man with his armour on to the bottom of its abode, until the Dagda came with his club of anger, and sang these words to it, so that it ebbed away on the moment:—

'Silence on your hollow head;  
Silence on your dark body,  
Silence on your dark brow.'

"Over the Great Secret of the men of Dea," I said. That is a wonderful secret and a wonderful whisper, because it was there that the gathering to the battle of Moytura was first whispered of by the Tuatha De Danaan.

"Over the horses of Emain," I said. When Nemed, son of Nama, reigned over the Gael, he had his two horses reared for him in Sid Eremán of the Tuatha De Danaan, and when those horses were let loose from the Sid, a bright stream burst out after them, and the foam spread over the land for a great length of time, and was there to the end of a year, so that the water was called Uanab, that is, foam on the water, and it is Uanab to-day.

"The Garden of the Morrighu," I said. That is Druimne Breg 'the Ridge of Bregia.' For the shape of a sow appeared to the sons of Milid on every hill and on every height in Ireland, when they came over the sea, and wanted to land by force, after a spell had been cast on it by the Tuatha De Danaan.

"The Valley of the Great Dam," I said, 'between the God and his Druid.' That is between Angus Og of the Sid of the Brug and his Druid, to the west of the Brug,

and between them was the one woman, the wife of the smith. That is the way we went, between the hill of the Sid of the Brug where Angus is, and the Sid of Bresal, the Druid.

"Over the Marrow of the Woman Fedelm," I said. That is the Boinne, and it gets its name from Boand, the wife of Nechtan, son of Labraid. She went down to the hidden well at the bottom of the dun with the three cup-bearers of Nechtan, Flex, and Lex, and Luam. No one came back from that well without blemish unless the three cup-bearers went with him. But the queen went out of pride and overbearing to the well, and it is what she said, that nothing would spoil her shape or put a blemish on her. She passed left-hand-wise round the well, to mock at its powers. Then three waves broke over her and bruised her two knees and her right hand and one of her eyes, and she ran out of the dun to escape until she came to the sea, and wherever she ran the water followed after her. Segain was its name on the dun; the River Segsa from the dun to the Pool of Mochua; the hand of the wife of Nechtan and the knee of the wife of Nechtan after that; the Boinne in Meath; Arcait it is called from the Finda to the Troma; the Marrow of the Woman Fedelm from the Troma to the sea.

*(To be continued.)*

## OUR INDUSTRIES.

## SEWING COTTON.

UNTIL quite recently, we had no idea that a large establishment existed in Ireland, for the manufacture of the above-named article, and it came upon us as a surprise, accustomed, as we nearly always have been, to having the products of Scotch and English makers palmed off on us, instead of the home manufactured article, and, we regret, very often without a word of protest on our part. Perhaps the plea of ignorance as to the existence of such a firm, may prove a convenient kopje to hide ourselves behind just at the moment. We were pleased to discover however, that such a concern exists, and that it is not by any means a new or an unimportant one, as it has been in existence for over twenty years, and, still further, has been exhibiting all over the country since then, viz., Dublin, 1882, Cork, 1883, Glasgow, 1888, and will be again well to the front at the Great International Exhibition to be opened in Cork next month; their products, too, are well known, and will compare more than favourably with similar goods made out of Ireland, and have been much admired everywhere shown. Their registered brand, the "Shamrock," for their standard make of Six Cord Machine Cotton, Crochet Cotton, and Irish Lace Threads, are now getting widely known, and may be purchased in all the leading drapery establishments in Dublin, Cork, Belfast, Waterford, Kilkenny, Limerick. The Shamrock Six Cords are suitable for all usual household purposes, and for the best classes of Dress-making, Shirtmaking, etc. As regards the cheaper classes of spools, this firm also turns them out under the name of the Holly, Emerald, and Round Tower brands. Whilst waiting for an interview with one of the heads of this enterprising firm, we were struck with the large number of happy-faced, comfortable-looking girls and women, *employees* of this establishment, all trooping off and chatting gaily to their dinner, it being one o'clock; and we thought how many more there could be there (this being the only manufactory of the sort in Ireland) if the classes would but insist on having our own Shamrock brand of sewing cottons when requiring same, and thus encouraging a worthy and promising Irish industry. We must all give an individual help in the revival of our own manufacturers, and, if we were thoughtful enough to do so, how soon an industry of this sort could be made to give employment, very largely indeed, and, if this principle were only applied all round, we would soon have a satisfactory proof of the prosperity of Ireland. We have been unable to obtain statistics of the imports of sewing cotton, owing to all the importations under the head of cotton being described simply as "cotton goods," and which would, we think, include everything made of cotton, and, therefore, could not separate sewing cotton for the purpose of getting the money value; but, if we judge by the large number of Irish hands employed in the Sackville Mills, Belfast, and then consider the amount of imported stuff we see everywhere all over the country, we may take it for granted that the money sent out of this country for this commodity must be enormous.

VIDETTE.